

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Karen A. Overstreet
Chief Judge

CHAMBERS
United States Courthouse
700 Stewart Street, Rm. 7216
Seattle, WA 98101-1271
(206) 370-5330
facsimile
(206) 370-5335

October 14, 2005

TO PRACTITIONERS:

The Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of the United States has now approved amendments to the Interim Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure as well as additional Official Forms. Today, I signed General Order No. BAPCPA-1, which adopts the Interim Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure dated August 22, 2005, as revised on October 13, 2005, in their entirety. The District Court will also be adopting these rules and forms. You will find a link to the approved Interim Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure and Official Forms on our home page.

I also signed two additional General Orders: General Order No. BAPCPA-2 (Adopting Amendments to Local Rules) and General Order No. BAPCPA-3 (Adopting Amendments to Local Rules Applicable to Ch. 13 Cases). The amendments to our Local Bankruptcy Rules approved by these general orders affect cases filed on or after October 17, 2005, as well as cases filed before that date, as indicated in each rule. Each order includes a redlined version of the rules and/or forms that are amended. The three new general orders are posted on our website under Local Rules/General Orders. We have also posted the new form chapter 13 plan and Chapter 13 Trustee Information Sheet under Local Rules/Local Rules on our website.

We experienced a tremendous increase in our case filings this week. All of the new cases must be processed before we can install the software for our CM/ECF system that accommodates the new provisions of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. We had anticipated that we would be able to load this new software on Monday, October 17, but that appears unlikely at this point. It may not be until next Thursday, October 20, or later that we are able to load the new software. Unfortunately, that means from midnight on Sunday (October 16), when our CM/ECF system is brought down, until the system is brought back up later in the week, you will not have access to the system to file or view documents electronically. Any documents filed during that time, including new cases, must be filed in paper form. Please limit your filings to those that are absolutely necessary. If you must file a response or reply related to a motion that is scheduled for hearing next week, please deliver the original plus one copy for chambers to the Clerk's Office and plan to do your service conventionally, including by facsimile if necessary. We will not require you to confirm hearings scheduled for next Friday, October 21, 2005.

We will do everything possible to minimize the time our system is unavailable to you and we will let you know through the email system when electronic access has been restored.



Honorable Karen A. Overstreet
Chief Judge